

3

Animal Product
Manual

Reference

Eggs and Egg Products from Poultry, Game Birds, or Other Birds

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Introduction

The *Eggs and Egg Products from Poultry, Game Birds, and Other Birds* section covers eggs and egg products that are imported for both edible and inedible purposes, as follows:

- ◆ Baluts (fertile eggs incubated 17 days)
- ◆ Boiled eggs (hard-boiled eggs, salted eggs, pickled eggs)
- ◆ Eggs which are preserved, but uncooked (like hundred-year eggs and pedan eggs)
- ◆ Egg shells
- ◆ Fresh, unfertilized eggs for breaking and pasteurization
- ◆ Fresh, unfertilized eggs for food
- ◆ Inedible egg products (e.g., liquid yolks)
- ◆ Moon cakes
- ◆ Noodle soups, fresh, frozen, or dried (like ramen), containing eggs or egg products

Not covered in this section are the following:

- ◆ Egg-containing foods and products (such as baked goods (excluding moon cakes), breaded products, drink mixes, egg protein shampoos, mayonnaise, pasta, salad dressings, and sauces)
- ◆ Eggs which are fertilized and ready for hatching, including commercial importations of uncooked baluts. Contact the nearest VS office for further action

- ◆ Eggs being imported for research; consider as embryos and refer to **Table 3-8-20**
- ◆ Egg cartons, crates, flats, or liners used as packing material (these are of concern because of possible contamination with blood, feathers, manure, or shells); regulate these products as fomites under **Miscellaneous Products**. If found contaminated, refer to **Step 5: Take Action on Contaminants and Ticks** on page 2-2-11 under **Clearing Regulated Cargo**.
- ◆ Commercial importations of shell eggs, which are regulated by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Refer to **Appendix I** for a list of AMS regional offices



Some egg products are highly perishable. Therefore, expedite an importation when you are authorized to release the importation. If you **cannot** release the hold, allow the importer to apply dry ice or refrigerate the product.

When a VS permit authorizes the entry of eggs or egg products, match the following information on the shipping documents with that on the permit:

- ◆ Current date
- ◆ Description of the material
- ◆ Shipper
- ◆ Consignee
- ◆ Conditions spelled out on the permit

Follow **Table 3-6-1** as you match the permit with the shipping documents.




TABLE 3-6-1 Validate Importation Authorized Entry by VS Permit

If the shipping documents:	And the:	Then:
Match the permit		RELEASE or CONTROL as stated on the permit
Do not match the permit	Permit has expired	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the consignee contact VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-27) 3. SAFEGUARD the importation until you hear from VS, TTSPS
	Discrepancy is other than an expired permit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT PPQ-VRS-AQI or PPQ-VRS-HQ personnel for further action

Locator

When a VS permit does **not** accompany an importation of eggs or egg products, use [Table 3-6-2](#) to determine the appropriate regulatory action to take.

TABLE 3-6-2 Where to Find the Regulatory Action on Eggs and Egg Products Not Authorized by a VS Permit

If the importation is:	And originated in:	Then:
Edible eggs and egg products		GO to Table 3-6-4
Eggs for breaking and pasteurization	Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa ¹	GO to Table 3-6-9
	Other than the Mexican States or Sonora or Sinaloa	GO to Table 3-6-8
Inedible egg products (e.g. liquid yolks)		GO to Table 3-6-3
Whole, empty egg shells		GO to Table 3-6-3

¹ Veterinary Services has determined that the Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa are of negligible risk for exotic Newcastle disease (END).

Inedible Egg Products

Egg products such as liquid yolks imported for research, scientific, educational, or another inedible purpose require a VS permit authorizing their entry. In addition, if the egg product is from an endangered or threatened bird, then the importation also may be subject to FWS regulations.

If you encounter a shipment which lacks a permit, then follow these steps:

1. **Do not** release the HOLD.
2. Advise the importer of the HOLD and that the importation requires a VS permit authorizing entry.
3. Provide the importer with the appropriate options, including applying for a VS permit issued by VS, TTSPS (see [page 2-4-27](#)).

Whole, Empty Egg Shells

TABLE 3-6-3 Regulatory Action on Whole, Empty Egg Shells

If the whole, empty, egg shells originated in a country:	And the shells are:	And the shipment is:	And:	Then:
Affected with END	Ostrich ¹	Commercial	Is appropriately certified ²	RELEASE
			Lacks the certification ²	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer provides the required documentation
		Not commercial	Clean and dry	RELEASE
			Not clean and dry	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Not ostrich	Commercial	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. ADVISE the importer of the HOLD and that the importation requires a VS permit authorizing its entry 3. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options, including applying for a VS permit issued by VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-27)
		Not commercial	→	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
◆ Affected with HPAI (H5N1) only ◆ Affected with HPAI (H5N1) in combination with END	→	→	Is accompanied by a VS-issued Import Permit	RELEASE or CONTROL as specified on the permit
	→	→	Lacks a VS-issued Import Permit	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Free from both END and HPAI (H5N1)	→	→	Is clean and dry	RELEASE
	→	→	Is not clean and dry	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

1 Empty shells may be decorated, etched, natural, or painted.

2 Accompanied by a Veterinary Export Certificate or a statement signed by the producer or manufacturer with **either** one of the following statements:

- ◆ The ostrich eggshells were treated with heat at a minimum temperature of 176° F (80° C) for a minimum of 30 minutes
- ◆ The ostrich eggshells were treated with a disinfectant such as alcohol, bleach, Diachem, formaline, phenol, or Virkon® S

Edible Eggs and Egg Products

Commercial importations of edible eggs and egg products **not** accompanied by a VS permit authorizing their entry **must** be of Canadian origin for **unrestricted** entry or from the Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa for restricted entry.

Use **Table 3-6-4** to determine the appropriate regulatory action to take for all shipments of edible eggs and egg products which are **not** accompanied by a permit that authorizes their entry.

Go to **Appendix A** for the **Guide to Entry Status of Animal Products in Passenger Baggage or Mail** when edible eggs and egg products are encountered in passenger baggage.



Never handle or break eggs outside of the package when those eggs are from Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Denmark¹, Djibouti, Egypt, France¹, Germany¹, Hungary¹, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Sudan, Sweden¹, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, or Vietnam. You risk contracting exotic strains of avian influenza. (Country listing will be updated as country status changes.)

- 1 Regionalized country. **Only** VS-defined areas are considered to be affected with HPAI (H5N1). Contact your local PPQ-VRS-AQI Veterinarian or a PPQ-VRS-HQ Staff Veterinarian for current information on VS-defined areas for regionalized countries.

TABLE 3-6-4 Edible Eggs and Egg Products

If the edible eggs and egg products originated in:	And are:	And:	Then:
Canada	_____	_____➡	RELEASE
Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa ¹	Accompanied by the appropriate certification ²	Properly packaged and labeled ³	RELEASE
	Improperly packaged and labeled		DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer corrects the packaging
	Not accompanied by the appropriate certification ²	_____➡	DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD until the importer presents the appropriate certification
Country affected with HPAI (H5N1)	_____	_____➡	GO to Table 3-6-5
Other than Canada, the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa, or a country affected with HPAI (H5N1)	_____	_____➡	GO to Table 3-6-7

1 Veterinary Services has determined that the Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa are of negligible risk for exotic Newcastle disease (END).

2 See **Figure 3-6-1** or **Figure 3-6-2** as appropriate.

- 3 Eggs **must** be packed in **new** containers and labeled as follows:
- ◆ Labeling of shipping and retail (consumer packaged) containers of eggs for importation **must** comply with 7CFR§57.950 and 7CFR§57.955 as applicable
 - ◆ Eggs **must** be imported in cases marked with the identity of the flock and show the region of origin

Edible Eggs and Egg Products from Countries Affected With HPAI (H5N1)

TABLE 3-6-5 Regulatory Action on Edible Eggs and Egg Products from Countries Affected With HPAI (H5N1)

If the importation is:	And:	Then:
Edible eggs and egg products from a country affected with HPAI (H5N1)	Is accompanied by a VS-issued permit	RELEASE or CONTROL as stated on the permit
	Lacks a VS-issued permit	REFUSE ENTRY
Moon cakes	→	GO to Table 3-6-6

TABLE 3-6-6 Regulatory Action on Commercial Shipments of Moon Cakes

If the product is:	And the product:	And from a country known to be:	And:	Then:
Moon cakes	Contains egg yolk	◆ Affected with HPAI (H5N1) only	Accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
		◆ Affected with HPAI (H5N1) in combination with END	Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
		Affected with END only	Accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
			Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
		Free from both HPAI (H5N1) and END	→	RELEASE
	Contains ham, sausage, or other pork products	→	→	GO to Foreign Origin Meat and Meat Products, Swine on page 3-13-1
	Does not contain egg yolk, ham, sausage, or other pork products	→	→	RELEASE

Edible Eggs and Egg Products from Other than Canada, the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa, and Countries Free from HPAI (H5N1)

TABLE 3-6-7 Regulatory Action on Edible Eggs and Egg Products from Other than Canada, the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa, and Countries Free from HPAI (H5N1)

If the edible eggs and egg products are from:	And the importation is:	And:	And the importation:	Then:
Other than Canada, the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa, and countries free from HPAI (H5N1)	Baluts	You confirm that the embryo is dead ¹	→	RELEASE
		You confirm that the embryo is alive	→	1. REGULATE as hatching eggs 2. CONTACT the nearest VS Office for further action
	Fresh, unfertilized eggs	→	→	GO to Table 3-6-8
	Hundred year eggs (Ming Dynasty eggs) ²	→	Is accompanied by a VS-issued import permit for 100-year eggs	RELEASE or CONTROL as specified on the permit
		→	Lacks a VS-issued import permit for 100-year eggs	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the consignee contact VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-27)
	Preserved eggs ³	→	Is accompanied by a VS-issued import permit for preserved eggs	RELEASE or CONTROL as specified on the permit
		→	Lacks a VS-issued import permit for preserved eggs	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the consignee contact VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-27)
	Salted eggs ⁴	Boiled	→	RELEASE
		Uncooked	→	RELEASE or CONTROL as specified on the permit
		→	Lacks a VS-issued import permit for salted eggs	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. HAVE the consignee contact VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-27) 3. ALLOW the importer to apply dry ice or refrigerate the eggs
	Thoroughly cooked, hardboiled eggs ⁵	You confirm that the whites are set and the yolks are not runny	→	RELEASE

TABLE 3-6-7 Regulatory Action on Edible Eggs and Egg Products from Other than Canada, the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa, and Countries Free from HPAI (H5N1) (continued)

If the edible eggs and egg products are from:	And the importation is:	And:	And the importation:	Then:
Other than Canada, the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa, and countries free from HPAI (H5N1)	Other than eggs and egg products listed in the cells above			1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. CONTACT a PPQ-AQI-VMO

- 1 For example, the baluts have been cooked.
- 2 Raw eggs (usually duck eggs), that have been covered with a mixture of wood ash and slaked lime, and left for up to a hundred days. By the time the eggs are used, the egg whites will have turned to pale-brown jelly and the yolks will be creamy and tinged green.
- 3 Raw eggs (usually duck eggs), that are coated in a salt-and-mud (clay) paste, then rolled in rice husks until the eggs are completely covered. At this stage, the eggs are packed into an earthenware urn, then tightly sealed and stored in a cool, dark place for one- to two months.
- 4 Eggs that are immersed in a super-saturated solution of salt for 2 weeks or more, and then the eggs are removed from the salt solution. In the Philippines, the eggs are also boiled and then colored red to distinguish the salted eggs from uncooked eggs; called itlog na pula or itlong na maalat.
- 5 However, the hardboiled eggs may be in vinegar.

Eggs (**other than** hatching eggs) from poultry, game birds, or other birds may be imported only in accordance with 9CFR 94.6 if they: are laid by poultry, game birds, or other birds that were raised in any region **except** Canada; are imported from any region **except** Canada; or are moved into or through any region except Canada at any time before importation or during shipment to the United States.

The eggs may be imported if they are accompanied by a certificate signed by a salaried veterinarian of the national government of the region of origin and:

(i) The eggs are imported in cases marked with the identity of the flock of origin and sealed with the seal of the national government of the region of origin.

(ii) The certificate accompanying the eggs is presented to an authorized inspector when the eggs reach the port of arrival in the United States.

(iii) The certificate identifies the flock of origin and shows the region of origin, the port of embarkation, the port of arrival, the name and address of the exporter and importer, the total number of eggs and cases (30 dozen equivalent) of eggs, shipped with the certificate, and the date the certificate was signed.

(iv) The certificate states that the eggs qualify for importation in accordance with 9CFR 94.6.

(v) **No** more than 90 days before the certificate was signed, a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin inspected the flock of origin and found **no** evidence of communicable diseases of poultry.

(vi) The eggs were washed, to remove foreign material from the surface of the shells, and sanitized on the premises of origin with a hypochlorite solution of from 100 ppm to 200 ppm available chlorine.

(vii) The eggs were packed on the premises of origin in previously unused cases.

(viii) Before leaving the premises of origin, the cases in which the eggs were packed were sealed with a seal of the national government of the region of origin by the salaried veterinarian who signed the certificate.

(ix) And, if the eggs were laid in any region **other than** Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man), Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland:

(a) **No** END occurred on the premises of origin or on adjoining premises during the 90 days before the certificate was signed.

(b) There is **no** evidence that the flock of origin was exposed to END during the 90 days before the certificate was signed.

(c) The eggs are from a flock of origin found free of END in one of the following ways:

(1) Sentinel birds were present in the flock of origin for at least 60 days before the certificate was signed. There was at least 1 sentinel bird per 1,000 poultry with at least 30 sentinel birds per house. The sentinel birds remained free of clinical and immunological evidence of END as demonstrated by negative hemagglutination inhibition tests conducted on blood samples drawn at 10-day intervals by a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin. The tests were conducted in a laboratory located in the region of origin, and the laboratory was approved to conduct the tests by the national government of that region; OR

(2) Once every week, beginning at least 60 days before the certificate was signed, a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin collected carcasses of all poultry that died during that week, and the carcasses were examined for END using the embryonically egg inoculation technique. Once a month, beginning at least 60 days before the certificate was signed, a salaried veterinary officer of the national government of the region of origin collected tracheal and cloacal swabs from **not** less than 10 percent of the poultry in the flock, and the swabs were tested for END. All examinations and tests were conducted in a laboratory located in the region of origin, and the laboratory was approved to conduct the tests and examinations by the national government of that region. All results were negative for END.

FIGURE 3-6-1 Example of a Foreign Official Veterinary Certificate Issued for Preserved Eggs (the Proper Certification for Eggs from Other Than Canada)

Shipments of table eggs from the Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa to the United States must be accompanied by a certificate issued by the Mexican Animal Health Authorities that contains the following information and certification statements:

- ◆ Certificate number on all pages of certification
- ◆ Country/territory exporting the product
- ◆ City where issued and date issued
- ◆ Name and address of farm(s) of origin of the eggs
- ◆ Name and address of exporter
- ◆ Name and address of importer
- ◆ Quality or description of eggs
- ◆ Number of cases and total quantity
- ◆ Identification marks on containers
- ◆ Method of transportation
- ◆ Port of export
- ◆ Port of arrival
- ◆ Certification statement listed below

I, the undersigned accredited veterinarian, certify that:

- ◆ No more than 90 days before the certificate was signed, a Mexican accredited veterinarian inspected the flock of origin and found no evidence of communicable diseases of poultry
- ◆ The eggs originate from *[Sonora or Sinaloa]* region of Mexico which is recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 94.22, as eligible for the importation of poultry and other poultry products
- ◆ The eggs were washed to remove foreign material from the surface of the shells and sanitized on the premises of origin with a hypochlorite solution containing 100-200 ppm of available chlorine
- ◆ The eggs have been graded to the grade stated on the cases and packed on the premises of origin in new packing and packaging material
- ◆ The eggs were stored after packaging and transported under refrigeration at an ambient temperature of **no** greater than 45° F (7.2° C)
- ◆ Either the eggs were transported directly into the United States without transiting regions considered by the U.S. as affected with exotic Newcastle disease OR the shipment of eggs was sealed at the premises of origin using seal number *[seal number]*



Signature of accredited veterinarian
Firma del veterinario aprobado

Date
Fecha

FIGURE 3-6-2 Statements Required to be Included in Certificate Issued by Animal Health Authorities in Mexico for Shipment of Table Eggs from Mexican States of Sonora and Sinaloa


Fresh, Unfertilized Eggs

TABLE 3-6-8 Fresh, Unfertilized Eggs

If the importation is:	And from a country:	And the eggs are for:	And the importation:	Then:
Fresh, unfertilized eggs	Affected with HPAI (H5N1)		Is accompanied by a VS-issued import permit	RELEASE or CONTROL as specified on the permit
			Lacks a VS-issued import permit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD ADVISE the importer of the HOLD and that the importation requires a VS-issued permit authorizing its entry PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options, including applying for a VS permit issued by VS, TTSPS (see page 2-4-27)
	Free from HPAI (H5N1)	Breaking and pasteurization	Is consigned to an approved establishment for shell eggs (see Appendix E)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SEAL the eggs in their shipping container using a numbered seal AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78; MAKE SURE the seal numbers are listed on VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form) REFER the importer to FSIS to obtain <i>FSIS Form 5200-8, Import Request Egg Products</i> (shell eggs for breaking are also regulated by FSIS)
			Not consigned to an approved establishment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options, including requesting consignment to an approved consignment (see Table 2-2-10 on page 2-2-15)
		Food	Is accompanied by the proper certification (see Figure 3-6-1)	RELEASE
			Lacks the proper certification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options, including requesting that the consignment be shipped to an approved establishment (see Table 2-2-10)

Fresh, Unfertilized Eggs from the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa

TABLE 3-6-9 Fresh, Unfertilized Eggs from the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa

If:	And the importation:	And the eggs are:	Then:
Fresh, unfertilized eggs from the Mexican States of Sonora or Sinaloa	Is accompanied by the both the appropriate certification (see Figure 3-6-2) and AMS Form PY 222 signed and dated in <i>Section D, Block 5</i> and <i>Block 6</i> by a Poultry Programs Representative	Properly packaged and labeled ¹	1. SIGN and DATE <i>AMS Form PY 222, Block 7</i> and <i>Block 8</i> of <i>Section D</i> 2. RELEASE for AMS inspection
		Not properly packaged and labeled	REFUSE ENTRY
	Lacks the proper certification or Poultry Programs Representative's signature		REFUSE ENTRY

¹ Eggs **must** be packed in new containers and labeled as follows:

- ◆ Labeling of shipping and retail (consumer packaged) containers of eggs for importation **must** comply with 7CFR 57.950 and 7CFR 57.955 as applicable
- ◆ Eggs **must** be imported in cases marked with the identity of the flock and show the region of origin